

SENATE BILL SUMMARY

Prepared by the Division of Legislative Information for the Senate Bill **AS ORIGINALLY FILED**. For more detail, see Senate Bill Analyses, if available, prepared by the Senate's professional committee staff.

SB 254 School Food Service Programs by Senator Siplin

Recognizes that school children need nutritious food for healthy physical and intellectual development and to combat diseases related to poor nutrition and obesity. Establishes the Florida Farm Fresh Schools Program within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DOACS).

Requires the DOACS to work with the Department of Education to recommend policies and rules to the State Board of Education pertaining to food services. Provides criteria for such policies and rules which include, but are not limited to, requiring school districts and schools to buy fresh and high-quality foods from farmers in this state when feasible, and encouraging school districts and schools to demonstrate a preference for competitively priced organic food products.

Requires the DOACS to provide outreach, guidance, and training to districts, schools, school food service directors, parent and teacher organizations, and students about the benefits of fresh food products from farms in this state. (See bill for details)